

# **Water Transfer Mitigation Update**

August 2005  
Imperial Irrigation District

IID - Water Transfer Mitigation Update

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## **Salton Sea Conservation Strategy**

- **Water Delivery to Sea**
- **Air Quality Measures**
- **Shoreline/Adjacent Wetland Habitat Surveys**

## **Water Use**

- **Fallowing Program**
- **Water Conservation Programs**
- **Assured Supply of Irrigation Water**

## **Species Specific Conservation Strategy**

- **Desert Pupfish**
  - Selenium Toxicity Study
  - Monitor Selenium in Agricultural Drains
  - Pupfish Abundance and Distribution Study
  - Maintain Drain Connectivity
  - Establish Pupfish Refugium
  - Develop Drain Management Techniques

Pupfish Conservation Strategy (Continued)

- **Selenium Toxicity Study**
  - USGS – Columbia Environmental Research Lab
  - Ongoing study of effects of dietary selenium on pupfish
  
- **Monitor Agricultural Drain for Selenium**
  - USGS – Western Fisheries Research Station
  - Quarterly sampling through 2009
  - Twenty-nine drain segments
  - Extensive/Intensive sampling

**Species Specific Conservation Strategy**

- **Razorback Sucker**
  - AAC and East Highline Canals
  - Relocation plan
    - Qualified personnel
    - Dewatering procedures
    - Designated handling procedures
    - Designated relocation area

## **Species Specific Conservation Strategy**

- **Burrowing Owl and Desert Tortoise**
  - Worker and Public Education Program
  - Clearance Surveys
  - Canal/Drain Maintenance Techniques
  - Relative Abundance/Distribution Study
  - Demographic Study
  - Relocation Plan

## **Species Specific Conservation Strategy**

- **Covered Species Baseline Surveys**
  - Three annual surveys
  - Annual survey conducted in each of three seasons
  - Approved methodologies
    - Point-count and vocalization surveys
    - Established or approved protocol
    - Transects/area surveys/traps/drift fence

## **Species Specific Conservation Strategy**

- **Covered Species Baseline Surveys**
  - Three annual surveys
  - Annual survey conducted in each of three seasons
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    - Established or approved protocol
    - Transects/area surveys
    - Pit-fall traps/drift fences

## **Drain Vegetation Conservation Strategy**

- **Drain Vegetation Survey**
  - Completed December 2004
  - Vegetation taxa and cover
- **Creation of Habitat (Managed Marsh)**
  - Site selection completed
  - Preliminary planning
  - One-third of Managed Marsh completed by 2010

## **Desert Habitat Conservation Strategy**

- **Desert Habitat Survey**
  - Vegetation communities/habitats
  - Based on 2002 to 2005 aerial photography
  - Delivery canal ROW and adjacent
  - Survey completed by January 2006
- **Acquisition/Creation/Enhance of Habitat**

## **Tamarisk Scrub Conservation Strategy**

- Rivers, Canals, Seeps and Isolated Areas
- Supplemental Vegetation Surveys
- Determine Wildlife Habitat Value
- Acquire/Create Native Habitat

## **Ag Field Habitat Conservation Strategy**

- **IID Owned Lands**
- **Crops Providing Habitat**
  - Alfalfa
  - Sudan and Bermuda grass
  - Grains (wheat)
- **IID Fallowed Lands**
- **Other Compatible Programs**